Public Health Department,

Corporation Street,

Taunton,

17*th April*, 1925.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Taunton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to present for your consideration my report on the state of the public health for the year 1924.

Communicable Diseases.

As it was five years since there had been any large number of cases of Measles, there was a most fertile soil for the growth and spread of this disease. Special measures were developed to cope with it, and that these were not unsuccessful is shown by the fact that although over 800 cases had been notified by the end of the year there had been no deaths.

Encephalitis Lethargica appeared to increase, both in the number of cases and the fatality resulting.

The prevalence of Small-pox in the Midlands and North has rendered it advisable to continue the notification of Chicken-pox, while the neglect of vaccination provides this disease with every opportunity for spreading.

The high incidence of Tuberculosis among children is partly accounted for by the fact that these are mainly early cases discovered at the school inspection.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The work of the Infant Welfare Centre has increased, the consultations given being almost double the number given in 1923. The benefits resulting are reflected in the fact that the Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest yet recorded. The death rate of infants under one month does not show a corresponding improvement, and this indicates a need for more ante-natal care and supervision—such as can best be exercised through a Maternity Home and Ante-natal Clinic.

Food.

A special enquiry was made into the quantity and quality of milk sold in the town. It appears that a very considerable proportion was of a good standard of cleanliness, and this is reflected in the higher consumption per head, the average amount consumed being 0.4 of a pint per day.

Housing.

The proposed building of 200 houses by the Borough Council in the next two years will help to lessen the unsatisfactory conditions under which about 3,000 of the population are now existing, the scarcity of houses compelling us to tolerate the existence of many which would, if other accommodation was available, be closed.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their ready approval and support of such advice as I have been able to give them, and the members of my staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor and to the Waterworks Manager for the particulars relating to their departments.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ALLEN.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Alderman West (Chairman).

Mrs. Councillor Barnicott	Mr. Councillor Howell-Spencer
Mr. Councillor Beel	Dr. Councillor Joscelyne
Mr. Councillor Clode	Mr. Councillor Lewis
Mr. Councillor Down	Mr. Councillor Maynard

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

In addition to the above:—

Mr. Alderman Penny
Mr. Alderman Potter

Dr. A. J. Macdonald	Representative of Medical Profession.
Mrs. G. Fowler	Representatives of Infant Health Society.
Mrs. E. Jarvis	
Miss M. Upton	
Mrs. Walker	Representatives of Women's Co-operative Guild.
Mrs. Pearce	

STAFF.

*Sanitary Inspector	J. W. Northcombe, C.R.S.I., F.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.
Asst. Sanitary Inspector ...	F. M. Westcott, resigned 3.1.25.
*Health Visitor	Margaret Lake, C.M.B., M.R.S.I., (resigned 31.10.24) R.S.I.
Clerk	A. W. Good, C.R.S.I.
*Consulting Medical Officer ...	Henry J. Alford, M.D., F.I.C.
*Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare ...	John Allen, M.B., D.P.H.
*School Medical Officer ...	
*Medical Officer of Health ...	

*Salary contribution made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

Health Week was observed for the second time between the 5th and 11th of October. On the 7th October Dr. Savage, the County Medical Officer of Health gave a lecture in the Parade Assembly Rooms to a large audience on "The Food We Eat," and on the 10th October Dr. D. Sommerville lectured on "Work and Energy."

An essay competition was arranged among the senior elementary school children, the subject to be written about being "How best to work and play to be healthy and fit." To stimulate interest in this His Worship the Mayor (Councillor F. W. Pritchett Brown) offered two prizes of 10/- each for the best essays written respectively by a boy and a girl, and two second prizes of 5/- each for the next best essays. These prizes were presented at the Council Meeting on 14th October.

A special lecture was also arranged for mothers at the Infant Welfare Centre on October 7th, on "Our Wonderful Bodies," by Miss Fielder, of Bath. Invitations to this were sent by post to all mothers who had at any time attended the Centre.

The Press is becoming most valuable as a health propagandist, and has done much to stimulate the public interest in matters of this kind, quite apart from the special publicity given during Health Week.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The rainfall on the watershed amounted to 43.48 inches and the reservoirs were full at the end of the year.

The re-construction of the shaft at Forches Corner is in progress.

Tenders for the laying of an additional 12 inch main between the filters at Fulwood and the town have been accepted and work will probably begin on this in April, 1925. This extra pipe will increase the supply and obviate some complaints which have been made by residents in more distant parts of the area as to insufficient pressure at certain times of the day.

Samples of water are taken at least once per month from a main tap in the town and sent to the County Analyst at Weston-super-Mare for bacteriological examination. It appeared from some of these that the sand filters at Fulwood were not as effective as they might be, and in consequence immediate steps were taken for the regeneration of these.

A chemical analysis of a sample taken in May showed:—

Reaction—slightly alkaline.	
Total Solids	13.0
Alkalinity (as Ca. CO^3)	
Total Hardness	6.7
(*a*) Temporary	2.2
(*b*) Permanent	4.5
Chlorine (as Na. Cl)	2.9
Nitrogen, as free and saline Ammonia ...	0.0018
as Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.0092
as Nitrates	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate, (4 hours at 80 deg. F.)	0.06

The last chemical sample was taken in February, 1921. The hardness figures then were:—

Total hardness	10.75
(*a*) Temporary	2.75
(*b*) Permanent	8.00

We are now therefore enjoying a much softer water than in 1921.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH ARE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.

These are:—

Blood Boiler and Blood Drier	Nil.
Bone Boiler	Nil.
Fellmonger, Tanner and Leather Dresser ...	1
Soap Boiler	Nil.
Tallow Melter, Fat Melter and Fat Extractor...	Nil.
Tripe Boiler	8
Glue Maker and Size Maker	Nil.
Gut Scraper	1
Rag and Bone Dealer	9
Fish Frier	8
Hide and Skin Dealer	2

Rag and Bone Dealers.

As the result of visits to the premises of rag and bone dealers it was found that three others who proved they had been established prior to January, 1922, were entitled to registration and they were in consequence registered. It was also found that new premises had been opened since this date without your consent. After notice these were given up. Two new premises have been registered during the year.

Fish Friers.

New premises for this trade have been registered at 79, Cheddon Road.

Other Premises and Occupations.

There are Regulations or Bye-laws for the control of:—

Bakehouses.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
Common Lodging Houses.
Tents, Vans and Sheds.
Slaughterhouses.
Removal of Offensive or Noxious Matter.
Nuisances.

Common Lodging Houses.

A new one was registered on 4th January with beds for ten men only. The total number registered is two.

Slaughterhouses.

The number in use is:—

Registered	7
Licensed	5
Total	12

One licensed slaughterhouse which was in the area added at the extension of the Borough in 1921 has not been used since June, 1924, and the licence has expired, the occupiers having moved to another area. I have advised you not to renew this licence to any other person owing to the unsatisfactory nature of these premises. Application for a licence for the use of the old tramway shed was made. This is over 100 feet from any dwelling house and is quite suitable for a slaughterhouse. Part of it has been divided into three large rooms used as lairs for animals awaiting slaughter, a killing chamber, a dressing room and a cooling room. The walls of these are all faced with finely trowelled cement, and the floors of cement, draining to external gullies. There is also a boiler house, a place for the clothing of employees and a wash hand basin for their use. There is an ample supply of town's water and drainage is to the town sewer.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The number of persons on the register on 31st December, 1924, was 58:—

Retailers	51
Wholesale Producers	7

The premises from which milk is retailed are:—

Farms	6
Dairy Businesses	20
General Shops	15
Premises outside Borough ...	10

I have inspected all the places where milk is dealt with during the year. As a result of this inspection you have on my advice caused one retailer to be taken off the register. This was a general shop where, in spite of repeated warnings, the milk was kept in an unsatisfactory place.

I find that there is an increasing tendency for the purely dairy business to develop into a dry grocery and sweet shop. In such cases I shall be compelled to recommend removal from the register unless some separate place apart from the shop is provided for the sale of milk over the counter.

New retailers registered during the year number 4. Three of these have their premises outside the Borough and have been registered after receiving a satisfactory report from the Medical Officer of the area in which they are situated. One has premises in the Borough. These have been specially erected solely for this purpose and contain four separate rooms; consisting of a small shop with counter, at the side of this is a room where milk, butter and cream are kept, at the back is a room for cleansing utensils and at the side a room containing a water heater. There is also at the rear a concrete platform roofed over.

I shall not advise the registration of any further premises in this area which do not attain this standard.

The Milk Supply—Quality and Quantity.

A special survey has been made during the year directed particularly to the cleanliness of the milk sold. To do this samples were taken as soon as possible after production; where the milk was produced in the town it was taken at the farm itself, and

where brought to retailers in the town from producers outside the samples were taken from the producers' churns as they arrived at the retailer's shop.

To understand the results obtained from these tests it should be known that subject to certain other conditions milk may be sold as Grade A. if it contains not more than 200,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre (about 18 drops), and if there are no Bac. Coli in 1/100 of a cubic centimetre.

A still higher grade is called Certified Milk. This may not contain more than 30,000 bacteria per c.c., and also no Bac. coli in 1/10 of a c.c., and is a particularly clean milk.

Thirty samples were taken, and these may be classified from the bacteria found as:—

		Bac. coli per c.c.	Total Bacteria per c.c
Very good	16	— 30	Under 200,000
Good	3	30—100	
Fair	2	100—300	
Poor	2	300—1,000	Over 200,000
Very poor	1	1,000—3,000	
Bad	3	3,000—10,000	
Very bad	3	10,000 and over	

These results, and taking the total bacteria present into consideration, show that 16 of the supplies sampled were almost of the standard required of Grade A. milk. It is also interesting to note that of those showing very good results seven were from farms in the Borough.

The retailers were informed of the results of the samples, and where these were unsatisfactory they were asked to tell their producer that there must be some improvement in the cleanliness of the milk supplied.

Seven follow-up samples were taken of the milk found to be heavily contaminated with bacteria. These showed that five could then be classed as good and two had made no improvement. It has been decided that no orders for milk under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders shall be given to these retailers who have made no improvement, and as one of these was the supply to a large institution the authorities at this place were enlightened as to the unsatisfactory nature of the milk supplied

An enquiry was also made during December into the total quantity of milk sold per day in the town. Considerable care was exercised to prevent the same supply being counted twice and the figures obtained were from actual retailers of milk only.

According to the replies received it would appear that the total daily amount sold amounted to 1,480 gallons and in addition the dried milk sold from the Welfare Centre was equivalent to 6.8 gallons per day. The total consumption of milk would then be about 1,486.8 gallons per day. From this I have deducted the amounts taken by institutions, including the Taunton & Somerset Hospital, the Union Infirmary, the Isolation Hospital and the Sanatorium, while I have also deducted the quantity used by three cafés in the town. The total quantity deducted as being used for these purposes was 61 gallons per day. The net consumption of milk during December therefore amounted to 1,425 gallons per day. The estimated population given by the Registrar-General was 24,670 and from this I have deducted the staff and inmates of the institutions in order to arrive at a more correct figure of domestic consumption. The average domestic consumption is therefore 0.4 pints per head per day. The price during December was 7d. per quart.

I have tried to obtain some comparative figures from other areas, but the only general ones are some taken during the period of Food Control in 1919, when the figures varied from 0.41 in Aberdeen to 0.11 pints in Oldham and Rhondda. The average for 48 large towns in England, Wales and Scotland being 0.22 pints per head per day. There is no doubt that we do not consume as much milk per head as we should when its value as a food is considered. It should be the chief article of diet for the young, containing as it does all the nutritive constituents required for body forming and growth. A quart of milk at 7d. is equal in food value to a pound of lean beef at 1/-, or ten eggs costing (in December) 2/6.

While the Public Health Authority are doing all in their power to ensure that the milk sold is as clean as possible, it is also the duty of the consumer to treat it properly in the home; the cleanest milk will be spoiled if a dirty jug is used, or if this jug is left on the doorstep for the milkman to fill, and then for any prowling cat to lap.

In the house it should be kept in a cool and ventilated place, while in hot weather the jug containing it may with advantage be stood in a bowl of cold water.

Milk sold in bottles has many advantages over the method of dipping from a can, but bottling requires special apparatus for cleansing, filling and sealing the bottles and I do not know of any retailer possessing these in this area.

There are no retailers of the special designation milks in this area.

Food Poisoning.

Through information supplied by Dr. Joscelyne, the medical practitioner called in, I received information at the end of April that an outbreak of illness of this nature had occurred. On investigation it appeared that 29 persons had been to a wedding and there partook of a meal including some cold roast beef, cold ham, tinned tongue, canned fruit and custard. At periods varying between $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and 6 hours, 9 members of the party were taken suddenly and violently ill, the chief symptoms being vomiting, diarrhœa, giddiness and collapse, with acute pain in the abdomen. Careful investigation revealed the fact that all those who ate of the tinned tongue were taken ill, while those who ate beef or ham without tongue escaped. It therefore appeared that the tongue was the probable cause of the illness.

Samples of the food eaten were sent to the special department of the Ministry of Health dealing with this. Investigation there indicated that the poisoning was due to a dead toxin and not to living organisms. Examination of the tin and its contents showed no abnormal smell or any other sign by which the tongue could be adjudged faulty. It was of Dutch origin and preparation and had no trade markings by which the batch number and date of preparation could be traced. It is in my opinion most desirable that all prepared foods should be so marked that their date of manufacture and batch can be traced.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Diseases notifiable are:—

Small Pox.
Cholera.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.
Erysipelas.
Scarlet Fever and Scarlatina.
Typhus Fever.
Typhoid Fever (including Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers).
Relapsing and Continued Fevers.
Puerperal Fever.
Cerebro-spinal Fever.
Acute Poliomyelitis.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Measles.
German Measles.
Tuberculosis (all forms).
Malaria.
Dysentery (Amœbic and Bacillary).
Trench Fever.
Acute Primary Pneumonia.
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.
Encephalitis Lethargica.
Acute Polio Encephalitis.
Anthrax.
Chicken Pox.

Diphtheria.

Eleven cases were notified and nine of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths. Six of these were youths from a residential school. Examination of the dormitory and class contacts by the Medical Officer disclosed the fact that one of these had had an attack of this disease three years ago in his home and that the bacilli had persisted in his throat for some months after this. After the isolation of this case no more cases arose.

No connection could be traced among the other cases. One—a teacher—had contracted the disease in Staffordshire and came home here to be nursed, while in another the diagnosis proved to be incorrect.

Monthly Incidence.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	5	2	—

Bacteriological Examination.

Swabs for this purpose are kept in this office. They are sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratories of the Somerset County Council at Weston-super-Mare. If sent by passenger train in the forenoon a report can be obtained by telephone at noon on the day following.

Antitoxin or Anti diphtheria Serum.

A stock of this is maintained in a fresh condition at these offices. It is available at any time of the day or night. Six bulbs of 8,000 units each were given out during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

The total number of cases notified was twenty; of these nineteen were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

The disease appeared to be of a very mild type. Three of the cases might have escaped notification had not the school nurses in the course of their visits to the homes of absentees from school found these children with suspicious rashes and reported them to me. Another which would also probably have not been reported was a child who was brought to the School Clinic on account of enlarged glands in the neck. Further examination showed that these were due to this disease.

Another group (four cases) was from the children's ward of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. There was an interval of eight days between the first and second, 43 days between the second and third and 37 days between the third and fourth. These appeared to indicate the presence of an old convalescent case or a carrier, but the source was never traced.

I now visit as far as possible each case notified, partly to investigate the means of isolation available and the possible necessity of removal to the Isolation Hospital. In my opinion removal is not required, or even advisable, where the case can be given a separate room and there are no other school children and no trade or business is done on the premises. These visits have also weakened my faith in the efficacy of disinfection by fumigation—for in at least three the sufferer was lying on a couch in the sole living room, which could not be closed for disinfection by formalin gas. In these three cases there were 9 susceptible contacts under 14 years of age, and when re-examined seven days after the

removal of the cases not one had any signs of having developed the disease. There was only one second case among the eight occurring in dwelling houses, although the susceptibles under 14 numbered 12.

Monthly Incidence.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	2	4	1	4	—	1	—	1	3	2	—

Enteric Fever.

Four cases were notified during the year. The first appeared to have got the infection in Southsea, where cases were occurring at that time. The second had been infected in a neighbouring area before coming here. The third appeared to have been infected by his sister, who was found on investigating the case to have been ill with a "nervous breakdown" for over a month and was still in bed. Examination of her and a blood sample showed that she was suffering from the same disease, probably contracted while away on holiday. It was also found that two other brothers had been infected by her and had mild attacks of the disease. As these two brothers had recovered they were not notified. All the cases were apparently of Para. b. infection. A fifth case notified from the Taunton and Somerset Hospital was apparently contracted in Devon and the notification was transferred to the area of origin.

Monthly Incidence.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

Puerperal Fever.

Three cases of this disease were notified. All were first pregnancies in which forceps were required and with some retention of the afterbirth. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia.

Influenzal. Thirteen cases were notified. Four were treated in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, one in the Union Infirmary and eight at home. Two deaths were attributed to this cause, one being an unnotified case.

Acute Primary. Eight cases were notified. One was treated in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, one in the Nursing Home and one in the Union Infirmary. Three of these died.

Monthly Incidence.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Infl.	1	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac.P.	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	2

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Ten cases of this were notified, and there were three deaths; eight of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Two of the male cases were possibly infected from one source while at a Territorial camp, while two of the female cases were employed in the same factory—although the room in which these two worked was large and their workplaces were almost as far apart as possible. One of the cases was a woman who had contracted the disease in Dorset. Feeling better she came here to recuperate and then had a relapse.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Five cases were notified among the 380 births registered. Four of these were delivered by nurses and one by a doctor. From enquiries made it did not appear that any measures were taken to prevent the occurrence of this disease in any of these cases, although three were known to be illegitimate. One case was in the Union Infirmary and nursing aid was supplied to the other four.

Nurses from the Taunton District Nursing Association paid 101 visits to these cases at a cost of £3 7s. 4d.

One of these, which was cured on 30th June, developed Measles on 1st December. There was again a very purulent discharge from the eyes, so this child was sent into the Isolation Hospital, when this condition cleared up after five days.

Cases.			Final Result.			
Notified.	Treated.		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
5	4	1	5	nil.	nil.	nil.

Measles.

The total number of cases notified was 831. Five of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital, chiefly on account of unsatisfactory conditions in the home. There were no deaths. Some cases arose among the recruits in the Barracks in June and the earlier ones were removed to the Isolation Hospital; later cases had, however, to remain in the sick quarters in the Barracks. Some cases next arose among children attending St. George's Elementary School, which is only separated from the sick quarters by a narrow road. It is difficult to see how the infection could have been conveyed, but the coincidence was striking. The disease appeared to diminish in September but increased very rapidly in October and was epidemic in November and December. Owing to the poor response of the general practitioners to the arrangements for nursing aid made in 1923 it was decided to alter this system, and on 6th November Miss L. A. Collins—a retired school nurse with an extensive fever experience—was engaged solely to visit and nurse measles cases.

The earliest information of these cases was obtained through the school nurses, who in their dual capacity as attendance officers visit the homes of absentees from school. They reported to me nightly all new cases seen and suspected to have measles. They also advised the parents to get medical attention for the child. If cases reported on the previous day by the school nurses were not confirmed by a doctor's notification on the following day, I then visited and saw these and where possible advised the parents to have medical attention. In this way 323 cases were seen by me which were not seen by medical practitioners. The measles nurse visited all the cases notified by general practitioners and obtained particulars of all other children in the house and their measles history. She also advised the parents as to the nursing of the child. To avoid duplication of visits I obtained the particulars of the other children in the cases visited by myself and the measles nurse only re-visited such of these as appeared necessary to me on account of the condition of the case and the probability of other children in the same house developing the disease later. Her re-visits to doctors' cases were regulated by her opinion of the necessities and circumstances of each case.

As regards the elementary schools, it was decided on my advice that no advantage would accrue from the closure of these, but children from an infected house attending the infant schools were excluded by a written notice for a period of a fortnight from the Monday after the notification, while children in the senior schools were excluded for the same time only if they had not had the disease. If the contacts attended a private or secondary school the teacher of this was informed.

During my visits to these cases I frequently found that the popular ideas as to the treatment did not help the recovery of the sufferer. The general methods, usually imparted by the grandmother, were that the clothing worn at the time when the rash appeared—even if this included boots—must not be removed, and that to bring out the rash as many other articles must be heaped on as possible. Other popular remedies to bring out the rash were old beer or cider warmed, but cold water was withheld. To protect the eyes the room would be so darkened that one could scarcely see the patient. When I have advised that the child be given as much cold water to drink as he wished I have been told that he was crying out all night for this, but that they did not give it for fear of driving in the rash and giving a chill.

The measles nurse commenced duty on 6th November and had paid a total of 717 visits by 31st December; of these 550 were to children under five years of age.

As it appeared to me that some of the cases could not or would not obtain medical aid without resort to the Poor Law, I undertook this for 19 cases and to these I paid 66 visits.

In comparison with the small epidemic in 1923, when there were six deaths among 154 cases, this epidemic in 1924, totalling 831 cases with no deaths, would appear to justify the change in the methods of dealing with it. The object of these was to reduce the death and disease resulting effects of Measles rather than to prevent the spread. It is perhaps the most difficult infection to combat owing to the fact that the sufferer is passing it on to others for at least four days before the disease has declared itself by the appearance of the rash. In all probability there is no risk of infection when the rash has faded and there are no discharges from the eyes, nose or ears.

Monthly Incidence.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	1	—	1	3	3	1	20	11	75	347	350

Small Pox.

As this disease is now epidemic in England and neglect of vaccination continues to the extent that only 29 per cent of the children entering school in 1923 showed any evidence of vaccination, I advised that Chicken Pox should continue as a notifiable disease. In consequence the order to this effect was renewed for a further six months from the 21st January and again on 10th June to expire on 21st January, 1925.

All cases notified and reported have been visited and examined by me. A record is kept of the vaccinial condition of each and the distribution of the rash plotted on a stamped diagram of the figure. No contacts have been known to be in the area, although information was received from one Port Sanitary Authority that a contact was proceeding to a certain address. This house was found to be closed and the inhabitants elsewhere.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF CHICKEN POX.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
11	8	7	15	27	24	13	8	1	4	1	14

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of this disease numbered 70. Details of these are given on page 26. Deaths from this cause during the same period numbered 30. There was one death for which no notification had been made. It appeared that the cause was only found as the result of a post-mortem examination.

The register of cases has been very carefully revised, all deaths have been removed, and with the co-operation of the County Medical Officer about 120 cases deemed to have been cured or recovered have been removed from the register.

The number of cases of this disease in the town at the end of 1924 was then found to be 327. This means that about 13 per 1,000 of the inhabitants are known to be suffering from tuberculosis.

These are classified as:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary	136	152	288
Non-pulmonary ...	21	18	39
Total	157	170	327

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Whooping Cough.

Four cases of this disease were reported in the early part of the year.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under two years).

The deaths of three children were certified as being due to this cause.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.

1918	...	—	1922	...	2.4
1919	...	19.6	1923	...	22.6
1920	...	3.9	1924	...	7.8
1921	...	22.2			

OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

The age and sex incidence of the cases dying in 1924:—

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
10	1	—	1
20	—	—	—
30	—	—	—
40	—	2	2
50	3	5	8
60	9	7	16
70	3	4	7
80	—	1	1
90	—	—	—
Total	16	19	35

THE SITE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

Site.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stomach ...	4	5	9
Bowel	1	2	3
Liver	4	2	6
Rectum ...	2	—	2
Breast	—	5	5
Uterus	—	2	2
Throat	1	—	1
Mouth	2	—	2
Miscellaneous ...	2	3	5
	16	19	35

Deaths due to Cancer (Malignant Disease) recorded by the Registrar-General number 36, he having included one female of whom I can find no trace in the death returns.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity Home.

At the request of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee I presented a report to them on the need for a home of this nature and give a summary of this.

In considering the need for provision of a maternity home it is necessary to survey the existing accommodation and the circumstances under which women are now being confined. The only institution now admitting women for normal confinements is the Workhouse Infirmary, but cases requiring surgical interference are admitted to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

There are maternity homes at Bridgwater, Wellington, Glastonbury and Minehead, but as the nearest of these is seven miles away women are naturally loath to go so far away, especially if they have other children at home.

As regards the conditions under which women are now being confined, the Health Visitor reports that of 408 births notified between March, 1923, and March, 1924, 70 per cent. took place under proper and satisfactory conditions, while 30 per cent. took place under insanitary conditions, such as overcrowded lodgings, etc.

For the care of the women during confinements there are four midwives practising in the area—two belonging to the Taunton District Nursing Association and two who are in private practice. About 50 per cent. of the confinements are attended solely by the midwives of the Association, while 26 per cent. have the private midwives and 24 per cent. have general practitioners.

While the death rate per 1,000 of children under one year of age has decreased from 135 in 1901 to 72 in 1921, the death rate of children under one month of age has only dropped from 45 in 1911 to 39 in 1921.

It is recognised that the death rate of infants under one month reflects with some accuracy the care taken of the prospective mother during pregnancy, and it is therefore apparent that the care of the mother during pregnancy has not advanced correspondingly with the care of the infant during the first year of life. The stillbirth rate, which is also indicative of the amount of care exercised during pregnancy and birth, is unduly high, being 60 per 1,000 births as compared with 30 per 1,000 births for England and Wales.

A maternity home is able to assist in reducing these by exercising care and supervision over the prospective mothers and also by educating them as to the greater need for this.

In an area of this size it does not appear possible or even desirable to provide a maternity home as a separate entity apart from the existing agencies, and there remains the possibility of combining with either:—

(1) The Taunton District Nursing Association.

(2) The Somerset County Nursing Association.

As the two midwives of the former attend fifty per cent. of the births notified and the latter have no nurses doing this work in the area, it appears desirable to combine with the Taunton District Nursing Association if some scheme could be projected which would be suitable for this purpose.

As the result of several meetings a scheme for the erection of a home has been approved by a joint meeting of the T.D.N.A. and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees and has been submitted to the Ministry of Health before being put before the Town Council.

Births.

The number registered during 1924 was 380, 209 being males and 171 females; of these 25 were known to be illegitimate.

The birth rate is 15.3 per thousand of the population, and the illegitimate birth rate 1.0 per thousand. Notifications of birth numbered 399, but 19 of these were not made within 36 hours of birth.

Of the 383 complying with the Act, 87 were made by general practitioners, 288 by midwives and 8 by parents. Included in these are 16 stillbirths. The stillbirth rate is therefore 42.1 per thousand registered births.

Infant Mortality.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 17, giving an infantile mortality rate of 44.7 per thousand. This is the lowest rate recorded. The deaths of infants under one month numbered 11, and give a neo-natal mortality rate of 28.9 per thousand births. There was one inquest held on an illegitimate child, where the mother had concealed her condition and no preparations had been made for the event.

The Infant Welfare Centre.

This was open for 51 sessions. The attendances numbered 3,414 and the consultations given 1,490. New babies coming for the first time numbered 173, while the individual children seen numbered 278. The Centre was also opened on many other occa-

sions, such as for test feeds and in particular for one infant suffering from Congenital Pyloric Stenosis. This infant had been under treatment at another institution, but was unable to continue owing to the fact that it developed Chicken-pox. Arrangements were therefore made for this child to attend at special times for gastric lavage and after a somewhat lengthy period it made a good recovery.

Work of the Health Visitor.

Miss Lake, who had succeeded Mrs. Stewart in May, 1923, resigned at the end of October to take another appointment. It was not possible to find a successor before the end of the year, and there was therefore a space of two months without a health visitor.

Visits made :—

First Visits.		Re-visits.	
Under one year ...	333	Under one year ...	1,283
Ante-natal cases ...	37	Between 1-2 years ...	698
Still births	12	Between 2-3 years ...	853
Other visits	60	Ante-natal cases ...	15
	442		2,849

Total visits 3,291.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders.

The distribution of free milk to necessitous nursing mothers and children continued throughout the year. The income scale by which the applications were judged was 70 per cent. above that of July, 1914, at the commencement of the year. This was raised to 80 per cent. in February and reduced to 70 per cent. in May, at which figure it remained for the rest of the year. The quantity of milk supplied was equal to 1,553 pints, and the cost of this was £163. The number of orders given (averaging 28 days each) was 397 and the families to whom these were given numbered 67.

A stock of dried milk in cartons is kept at the Centre and sold at cost price to mothers when this is prescribed for their children. The price per carton was 1/6, raised in October to 1/7. The quantity sold was equivalent to 15,483 pints.

APPENDIX, 1924.

1 General Statistics.

Area, statute acres	2,015
Population, estimated mid-year—	
for death rate	24,670
for birth rate	24,870
Number of inhabited houses, 1921—	
(*a*) Pre-extension	5,021
(*b*) Post-extension	5,664
Rateable Value	£123,170
Sum represented by a penny rate	£434

2. Vital Statistics.

Density of population over whole area, per acre ...		12.3
Births registered—		
Male	209	
Female	171	
	——	380
Births registered as illegitimate—		
Male	14	
Female	10	
	——	24
Birth rate		15.3
Birth rate, illegitimate		1.0
Deaths, after correction for transfers—		
Male	139	
Female	148	
	——	287
Death rate, crude		11.6
Death rate, standardised		—
Deaths of infants under one year—		
Legitimate	14	
Illegitimate	3	
	——	17

Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	44.7
Infant Mortality (under one month) per 1,000 births	28.9
Still births per 1,000 births registered	42.1
Deaths, female, in consequence of child birth—	
(*a*) from sepsis	1
(*b*) from other causes	1
Puerperal Fever rate per 1,000 live births	7.7
Deaths from Measles, all ages	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa, under 2 years of age ...	3
Death Rate, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.0
Death Rate, Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	0.1
Death Rate, Cancer	1.4
Natural rate of increase per 1,000 of population ...	3.7

VITAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1924.

Birth Rate	18.8
Death Rate	12.2
Infantile Mortality Rate	75.0

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1924.

		Male.	Female.
	ALL CAUSES	139	148
1.	Enteric Fever	—	—
2.	Small-pox	—	—
3	Measles	—	—
4.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Diphtheria	—	—
7.	Influenza	4	10
8.	Encephalitis Lethargica	2	—
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	12	14
11.	Other tuberculous diseases	2	2
12.	Cancer, malignant disease	16	19
13.	Rheumatic Fever	—	1
14.	Diabetes	2	3
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	12	13
16.	Heart Disease	14	17
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	6	3
18.	Bronchitis	3	15
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2
20.	Other respiratory diseases	2	—
21.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	2	1
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis	—	2
24	Cirrhosis of liver	2	1
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis	3	3
26.	Puerperal sepsis	—	1
27.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	—	1
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	6	3
29.	Suicide	2	—
30.	Other deaths from violence	3	4
31.	Other defined diseases	39	32
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1924.

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS OF ALL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total of all Ages	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over			
Diphtheria—															
Clinical	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	2	—	—	—	11	9	—
Bacteriological	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	4	8	2	4	1	1	—	—	20	19	—
Enteric Fever (and Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	—	—
Pneumonia—															
Acute Primary	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	8	—	3
Influenzal	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	3	13	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	4	11	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	1	1	—	10	8	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	54	81	128	210	294	28	8	5	2	—	—	831	5	—
German Measles	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Chicken-pox	8	8	6	16	19	61	11	3	1	—	—	—	133	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Pneumonia—6 cases treated in Taunton & Somerset Hospital, 2 in Union Infirmary and 1 in the Nursing Home.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	1
10 —	5	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	2	5	1	1	—	—	1	—
20 —	2	6	2	—	1	5	—	—
25 —	2	2	—	1	2	3	1	—
35 —	4	2	—	—	3	2	—	—
45 —	3	5	—	—	3	1	—	—
55 —	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
65 + ...	3	3	—	—	1	3	—	—
Totals	27	32	8	3	12	14	2	2

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total under 1 year
Measles										
Whooping Cough										
Chicken Pox										
Bronchitis										
Broncho-Pneumonia									1	1
Pneumonia										
Diarrhœal Diseases				1	1	1	1			3
Premature Birth	3	2	2		7	1				8
Marasmus										
Congenital Defects										
Rickets										
Accident	1				1					1
Ac. Retro. pharyngeal Abscess								1		1
Tuberculosis								1		1
Atelectasis	1				1					1
Asphyxia	1				1					1
Total	6	2	2	1	11	2	1	2	1	17

Legitimate 14
Illegitimate 3
Inquest ... ... 1 (Illegitimate)

ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER FIVE YEARS.

Age.	MALE.		FEMALE.		Total.
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	
Under one day	1	1	—	—	2
1 day and under 7 days	3	1	1	—	5
1 week and under 4 weeks	3	—	1	—	4
1 month and under 3 months ...	1	1	—	—	2
3 months and under 6 months ...	—	—	1	—	1
6 months and under 9 months ...	—	—	2	—	2
9 months and under 12 months ...	1	—	—	—	1
1 year and under 2 years	—	—	2	1	3
2 years and under 3 years	—	—	—	—	—
3 years and under 4 years	—	—	—	—	—
4 years and under 5 years	—	—	1	—	1
	9	3	8	1	21

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the year—

(*a*) Total 36

(*b*) With State assistance under Housing Acts, 1919 to 1924.

(i) By Local Authority 18

(ii) By other bodies or persons 4

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 962

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 128

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation ... ... Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous headings) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 528

2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal notice by the Local Authority or their Officers 367

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 30

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit

(*a*) by owners 29

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owner ... Nil.

(3) Number of houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ... Nil.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 131

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—

(*a*) by owners 109

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owner ... Nil.

(C) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... ... Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... ... Nil.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The following is a summary of Meat and Food Inspections and Condemnations for the year:—

No. of visits made to Slaughter Houses 228
No. of seizures and surrenders of Diseased Meat—
At Private Slaughter Houses, Shops, etc. 24
Magisterial Orders obtained ... ... Nil.

CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.

Generalized Tuberculosis.

Carcases—

Cows	2
Heifers	Nil.
Calves	Nil.
Pigs	10

Localized Tuberculosis.

(*a*) In Bovines—
Part Carcases condemned, including heads and offals ... ... Nil.
(*b*) In Swine 37

Total Weight of Tuberculous Meat—1 ton, 4 cwt. 0 qr. 16 lbs.

Other Diseases.

(Hydræmia, Septicæmia, Inflammation, etc.)

Beef	1
Veal	Nil.
Mutton	Nil.
Pork	1
Lamb	Nil.

Weight of same—4 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Tinned Beef	24 lbs.
Tinned Tongue	Nil.
Fish	Nil.
Eggs and Egg Yolk	Nil.
Margarine	Nil.
Imported Tripe	Nil.
Ham and Tongue Paste	6 lbs.
Smoked Ham	Nil.
Potatoes	10 cwt.

Total weight of Meat and other Foods condemned—
1 ton, 18 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lbs.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	54		
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	125		
Workplaces ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	63		
Total	242		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*				
Want of cleanliness	4	4		—
Want of ventilation	1	1		—
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation—				
insufficient	1	1		—
unsuitable or defective ...	3	3		—
not separate for sexes ...	1	1		—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	10	10		—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act. 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.—Two belonging to the Taunton District Nursing Association.

(b) Infectious Diseases.—The T.D.N.A. provides nursing aid to cases of Measles and Ophthalmia Neonatorum when required by the Medical Officer of Health, Taunton, the charge for Measles being 10d. per visit and for Ophthalmia Neonatorum (including dressings) 8d.

The epidemic of Measles required the engagement of a special nurse.

Midwives.

There are four who live and practise in Taunton. These are not employed or subsidised by the public health authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(1) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. One.

This is provided and maintained by the Taunton Town Council. It is open on Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m.

(2) SCHOOL CLINIC. One.

This is held in the same building as the Infant Welfare Centre, and is open each school day. It is used for inspections, treatment of minor ailments, treatment of defective vision and dental defects.

(3) TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY. One.

This is provided and maintained by the Somerset County Council and is situated in Priory Avenue. It is open on Mondays for Taunton cases.

(4) VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. One.

This is provided and maintained by the Somerset County Council. It is held in the Out Patients' Department of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Men are treated on Saturdays between 4 and 5 p.m. and Women and Children on Tuesdays between 2.30 and 4 p.m.

Additional times in 1925 will be—for Men, Mondays at 7.30 p.m., and for Women, Mondays at 6 p.m.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS.

A sanatorium of 20 beds on ground adjacent to the Isolation Hospital on the Cheddon Road. It is provided and maintained by the County Council.

(2) Maternity.

None. Cases requiring surgical interference may be admitted to the Taunton & Somerset Hospital. A scheme for the provision of a Home of 4 beds is now under consideration by the Taunton Town Council.

(3) Children.

Nil; but there is a ward of 15 beds in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

(4) Fever.

The hospital for these cases is situated on the Cheddon Road. It consists of four wards and administrative block, a laundry and an iron structure. It has accommodation for 32 cases.

The equipment is not modern and is unsatisfactory in a number of features. For example, there are no separate bath rooms or duty rooms. Only one ward is provided with a hospital sluice for bed pans, etc. The wards are unnecessarily high, and it is consequently difficult to warm them.

(5) Small Pox.

A hospital of 8 beds has been provided by the Somerset County Council at Cossington, near Bridgwater, and 15 miles from Taunton.

(6) Other Hospitals.

A general hospital, the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, in East Reach, Taunton. It has 107 beds and is for medical and surgical cases.

There are no institutions in the area where special provision is available for either unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children beyond those available under the Poor Law.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Infectious Diseases.

A horse brougham, shortly to be superseded by a motor ambulance.

(b) Accident and Non-infectious Cases.

A motor ambulance has been provided and is maintained by the Red Cross Ambulance Committee. It is kept in the Somerset Motor Co.'s Garage, Corporation Street, Taunton.

Laboratory Work.

The laboratories of the Somerset County Council at Weston-super-Mare are available for all manner of chemical or bacteriological examination, excepting only material for the Wasserman reaction, which is sent to Prof. Walker Hall at the University of Bristol.

ACTS (ADOPTIVE) IN FORCE IN THIS AREA.

	Date adopted.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890	November, 1890.
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890	October, 1890.
Public Libraries Act, 1892	October, 1902.
Private Street Works Act, 1892	June, 1906.
Notification of Births Act, 1907	August, 1908.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907	May, 1909.
Provisional Order Confirmation (Taunton Extension) Act, 1921	9th November, 1921.

Bye-laws and Local Regulations (Public Health) in force in this area.

		Date adopted.
Bye-laws,	New Streets and Buildings	10th January, 1879.
,,	Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	,, ,,
,,	Nuisances	,, ,,
,,	Common Lodging Houses	,, ,,
,,	Offensive Trades (Fellmonger, Tanner and Leather Dresser)	27th April, 1883.
,,	Tents, Vans and Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation	25th October, 1921.
,,	Slaughterhouses	1st November, 1921.
,,	Offensive Trades (Blood boiler), Blood drier, Bone boiler, Soap boiler, Tallow melter, Fat melter, Fat extractor, Tripe boiler, Glue maker and Size maker, Gut scraper, Rag and Bone dealer, Fish frier, Dealer in Hides and Skins)	10th January, 1922.
Regulations,	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	11th December, 1906.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

on work completed during the year 1924.

Number of Informal Notices given		648
Number of Statutory Notices served		160
Houses and premises cleansed and repaired		362
Defective roofs repaired		62
,, Courtyards repaired		11
,, Windows repaired		20
,, Shutes repaired		75
,, Floors repaired		25
,, Stairs repaired		9
,, Waste troughs repaired		3
New waste troughs provided		43
House drains cleansed, repaired, etc.		124
Water Closets, new, provided		17
,, ,, repaired		133
,, ,, unchoked and cleansed		87
,, ,, flushed		7
Water Supply, houses supplied with Town's Water ...		18
Cesspits destroyed		2
Overcrowding abated		8
Animals removed, being improperly kept		93
Removals of dung and other refuse		61
Dust removal, communications received and attended to		54
Visits and Inspections:—		
Bakehouses	36	
Common Lodging Houses	11	
Dairies and Milkshops	98	
Cowsheds	19	
Manure	132	
Cesspits	32	
Hide and Skin Depôts	46	
Gut Scraping	27	
Tanners	7	
Rag and Bone Dealers	6	
Food Shops, etc.	114	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	24	
Parade and Markets	56	
Cattle Markets	5	
Infectious Diseases	118	
General Inspections	2,190	
		2,921

Disinfecting during the year.

Rooms:—

Tuberculosis	106	
,, shelters	5	
Scarlet Fever	11	
Diphtheria	5	
Pneumonia	1	
Meningitis	5	
Verminous and Scabies	18	
Typhoid	1	
	——	152

Bedding, Clothing and other articles:—

Tuberculosis	901	
Other Infectious Diseases	738	
Verminous and Scabies	840	
Military	245	
	——	2,724

The van used for the removal of clothing and bedding to the Steam Disinfector has been disinfected 63 times.

Number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year:—

Bullocks	1,198	
Calves	3,088	
Sheep	7,205	
Pigs	12,207	
	———	23,698

JAS. W. NORTHCOMBE,

C.R.S.I., F.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1924.

Month.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine		Rainfall.		
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell	Days with 04 or more
January ..	29.88	30.60	29.12	42.37°	54°	16°	57.5	15	3.45	24	17
February ..	30.56	30.56	28.91	35.3°	51°	17°	79.0	9	0.485	10	5
March ..	29.81	30.38	29.14	40.4°	60°	18°	163.5	4	1.215	10	7
April ..	29.83	30.49	29.27	40.5°	71°	24°	148.5	2	2.64	14	9
May ..	29.83	30.22	29.37	52.38°	70°	32°	177.5	0	3.865	23	15
June ..	29 97	30.31	29.43	57.7°	71°	37°	182.0	2	3.27	13	11
July ..	29.87	30 32	29.34	60.3°	79°	40°	221.5	1	2.81	15	12
August ..	29.82	30.39	29.34	58.3°	75°	39°	161.0	2	2.65	19	17
September ..	29.81	30.33	29.38	56.83°	69°	34°	117.0	4	5.115	21	16
October ..	29.86	30.39	29.45	51.45°	71°	28°	84.5	8	4.655	21	16
November	30.00	30.57	29.92	47.85°	60°	20°	55.0	12	3.43	10	9
December ..	29.88	30.44	29.16	44.93°	57°	30°	52.0	10	4.08	16	16

Total Sunshine—1499.0 hours; Sunless Days—69.
Total Rainfall—37.665 ins.; Total No. of days rain fell—196.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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UCT